

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 AID-05 DHA-02 ORM-01 ITFE-00 /086 W

----- 110072

R 150926Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4444

INFO USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USLO PEKING

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUDAPEST 3343

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, HU, VN

SUBJ: SIDELIGHT TO LE DUAN VISIT TO HUNGARY

REF: BUDAPEST 3338

1. CONFUSION AND DISENCHANTMENT REIGNED SUPREME AMONG MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS PRIOR TO AND DURING THE PARTY-STATE VISIT OF NORTH VIETNAMESE DELEGATION LED BY FIRST SECRETARY LE DUAN OF VIETNAMESE WORKERS PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE (OCT 3-8). ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISIT WAS MADE TO DIPLOMATIC CORPS LATE AFTERNOON OCT 2 IN PECS DURING COURSE OF ANNUAL OUTING HOSTED BY PRESIDENT PAL LOSONCZI. ANNOUNCEMENT CAUSED CONSTERNATION IN RANKS OF DIPLOMATIC CORP SINCE HDOQISL DEPARTMENT ASKED DIPLOMATS TO BE PRESENT AT 0940 HOURS IN SPITE OF FACT THAT MANY HAD DECIDED TO OVERNIGHT IN PECS BECAUSE OF LONG DRIVE BACK TO BUDAPEST AND LATE HOUR AT WHICH DINNER BROKE UP.

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2. INVITATIONS TO WESTERN MISSIONS, AND PRESUMABLY TO OTHERS, WERE DELIVERED AFTER FIVE O'CLOCK ON OCT 2 TO DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, ONLY KNOWN EXCEPTION BEING BELGIAN WHICH RECEIVED ITS INVITATION AROUND FOUR O'CLOCK. EVEN U.S. AND FEDERAL REPUBLIC, WHICH DO NOT ENJOY DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH DRV, RECEIVED INVITATIONS. AS A RESULT, OF ALL NATO MISSIONS ONLY CANADIAN CHARGE WAS AT AIRPORT ON OCT 3 ON MORNING OF OCT 4, DRV EMBASSY TELEPHONED SEVERAL NATO EMBASSIES TO INQUIRE ABOUT TIME THEY RECEIVED INVITATION TO AIRPORT FROM PROTOCOL.

3. COMMENT: DECISION TO INVITE DIPLOMATIC CORP TO AIRPORT FOR ARRIVAL OF LE DUAN HAS ALL EARMARKS OF HIGH-LEVEL DECISION AT HSWP HEADQUARTERS MADE AT LAST MINUTE. GOH HAS KNOWN FOR SOME TIME OF LE DUAN VISIT AND CERTAINLY WAS AWARE THAT INVITATION HAD BEEN EXTENDED TO DIPLOMATIC CORPS TO PARTICIPATE IN ANNUAL OUTING AT PECS ON OCT 2. CONFUSION THAT RESULTED COSPD ONLY HAVE BEEN PRODUCT OF LAST MINUTE DECISION, POINT OF VIEW WHICH IS REINFORCED BY HASTY AND SLOPPY WAY IN WHICH INVITATIONS WERE EXTENDED TO VARIOUS DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS. TOP-LEVEL PROTOCOL OFFICIALS WERE FIRST EVEN IN BUDAPEST BUT IN PECS; IT WAS THE SECOND TEAM WHICH ISSUED TARDY INVITATIONS. MFA PROTOCOL SECTION HAS BECOME TARGET FOR MANY COMPLAINTS FROM DIPLOMATS DISGRUNTLED BECAUSE OF PEREMPTORY WAY IN WHICH THEY WERE SUMMONED TO PAY HOMAGE AT AIRPORT TO MAN WHO IS NOT HEAD OF STATE BUT FIRST SECRETARY OF VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST PARTY. THE CAMOUFLAGE INHERENT IN DESIGNATION OF LE DUAN VISIT AS "PARTY-STATE" BECAME ALL MORE GALLING WHEN PRESIDENT LOSONCZI OF PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL, WHO IS GOH'S FORMAL MEETER-GREETER, HIMSELF WAS NOT AT THE AIRPORT.
MCAULIFFE

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